Application No. 09/449,699 Response to Office Action

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date noted below.

Dapiel J. Bersohn

Dated: November 12, 2004

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith. please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by form PTO-2038 attached hereto. authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper, to Account No. 06-1378.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 990723/LH

K. TSUTSUMI et al Applicant(s):

09/449,699 Serial No.

November 24, 1999 Filed

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Art Unit 2176

William L. Bashore Examiner

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

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Technology Center 2100

This is responsive to the Office Action mailed August 11, 2004 the term for response to which expires on November 11, 2004 (Veterans Day), which is automatically extended to November 12, 2004.

Amendments to the Claims are set forth in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. Claims 1-11, 14-16 and 20 are canceled; claims 12, 13, 17, 19 and 21 are amended; and claim 18 is maintained.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.